

**Rhode Island Department of Health  
Women's Health Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes – June 4, 2008**

**Members Present:** Katie Albert, , Danielle Denis, Kristina Diamond, Melanie Duhamel, Marie Ghazal, Margaret Koch, Jessica Marfeo, Marlene McCarthy, Cynthia Rosengard, Janet Searles, Lisa Shea, Iris Tong  
**Members Excused Absent:** Janae Ashley, , Yvonne Freeman, Catherine Graziano, , Wendy Fox, Lisa Jones, , Marian Mehegan, Christine Ryan  
**Members Unexcused Absent:** Chasity Hernandez,  
**HEALTH Staff Present:** Carrie Bridges, Kate McCarthy-Barnett, Meredith Sine (Intern)

**Welcome & Introductions**

**Iris Tong called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.**

**Approval of Minutes (May 7, 2008)**

**Marie Ghazal led the WHAC in review of the minutes. Minutes were accepted.**

**Project Updates**

**Response to Pharmacy Letter:** The Pharmacy Board was contacted again via e-mail and phone to provide a written response reflecting their verbal response regarding action steps as a result of the WHAC letter. **Action Items:** Kate will follow-up with Catherine Cordy.

**Letter to Dr. Gifford:** Carrie sent the letter to Dr. Gifford but his response is still pending.

**Action Items:** Kate will follow-up with Dr. Gifford on the status of his response.

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

- **Perry-Sullivan Bill Subcommittee:** The letter to Dr. Gifford was reviewed and signed by members present who were interested in signing the letter. **Action Items:** Kate will send the final letter to the members who were not present at the meeting and if interested, make arrangements for members to sign the letter. Carrie will send the signed letter to Dr. Gifford.
- **Breast Cancer among Elderly Women Subcommittee:** The subcommittee will be reviewing this issue over the summer with plans to provide an update/suggested actions at the Sept. meeting.
- **Healthy Relationships among Teenage Girls:** As a follow-up to the work completed by Jessica, the subcommittee will be meeting over the summer to prepare recommended steps to address this issue.
- **Sexual Abuse Awareness Subcommittee:** The subcommittee is working on a flyer to send to providers and will be reviewing next steps throughout the summer months.

### **Teen Ambassador Projects**

Marie Ghazal led the review of teen ambassador projects. The teen ambassadors were congratulated for their outstanding projects and commitment to women's health.

• **Katie Albert: Environment Risks and Breast Cancer (Mentor- Marlene McCarthy).** Katie provided a detailed report and presentation on her project including an overview of the project goals, relevant research, personal experience, press materials and lessons learned. In addition, Katie shared the success of the presentation by Erin Boles, Associate Executive Director of the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition which was held on Tuesday, May 27th at 6:30pm at Prout.

• **Melanie Duhamel: Mixed martial arts and basic self-defense class for WHAC and LaSalle (Mentor- Danielle Denis).** Melanie provided a detailed review of her project including objectives, personal interest in the topic, steps taken to meet the objectives and lesson learned. In addition, Melanie shared highlights from the self defense class for students held at LaSalle on May 15th at 10:30am.

o **Jessica Marfeo: Fundraiser to raise awareness of the need to educate teen girls on the importance of STD and pregnancy prevention (Mentor- Yvonne Freeman).** Jessica shared a detailed overview of her project including background, relevant materials and lessons learned. In addition, she shared highlights of It's All About Me: Girl's Night Out which was held on May 8th at Women & Infants Hospital Auditorium A at 6:30pm. The proceeds from the evening went to S-Star Birth in Cranston. Jessica has made baskets with donated items for 13 women, babies and toddlers and several announcements were placed in local newspapers.

**Action Items:** The teen ambassadors were asked to send their final reports to Carrie.

**Regional Report: No regional report.**

**Staff Report: On behalf of Carrie, Kate provided an overview of the Title V community input process and requested feedback from members. The discussion provided several recommendations regarding the goals and objectives which will be written and provided as feedback to the Department of Health. In addition, Carrie requested members check availability to join her at the July 16th Regional Women's Health Advisory Committee Meeting (information will be sent via e-mail).**

**Next Meeting is September 3, 2008.**